

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present**

James Thommes, Dental Director DentaQuest of Illinois  
Henry Lotsof, Avesis  
Mary Margaret Looker, Central Counties Health Centers  
Randall Markarian, Markarian Orthodontics  
Gregory Dietz, Children's Center for Dentistry  
Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Kathy J. Shafer, Southern Illinois University (SIU)  
Jorelle R. Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System  
Jason Grinter, Onsite Dental  
Danny Hanna, University of Illinois (UIC)  
Bill Simon, Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS)

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present**

Mary Pat Burgess, Chicago Department of Public Health  
Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental

**HFS Staff Present**

Christina McCutchan (BPAS)  
Shelly Defrates (BPAS)  
Jose Jimenez (BPAS)  
Mary Richey (OIG)

**DentaQuest Staff Present**

Aaron Washburn  
Kelly Pulliam  
David Thielemier

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan, Dental Manager for Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan explained the procedure for the meeting due to being done through Web Ex.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded attendees that the committee is comprised of selected committee members that are committed to share their expertise, review policy and procedures, express challenges they are experiencing and make recommendations to the Department to positively impact the health of our dental members. She reminded attendees that this committee is not a managed care committee and will only deal with fee-for-service issues.

**II. Introductions**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan did roll call of committee members, HFS staff and DentaQuest staff.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

#### **October 14, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any committee members had any comments or opposition to posting the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes. There were no objections so Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated the minutes would be posted.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### **CARES Act Provider Relief Funding**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan provided an update on the CARES Act Provider Relief Funding. Checks have been released and providers who applied for Cares Act Funding should have received. If they haven't, please let us know.

Provider notice went out last Friday extending reporting deadline from January 31<sup>st</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup> for subaward agreements.

HFS will provide a template with instructions for subrecipients to report expenditures. Requests for supporting documentation will also be communicated. Reporting Template information should be coming out the middle of next week.

All unspent subaward funds must be returned to HFS' Bureau of Fiscal Operations (BFO).

Dr. Simon asked if the funds can be given longer period of time to be used since they weren't received until 12/30/20.

Mr. Jose Jimenez stated that a lot of providers have had the same feedback but because this is federal legislation there isn't flexibility in how the CARES Act can be implemented. So, as we get additional pieces of legislation and funding, we're hoping to have more flexibility to meet your needs. But the December 31, 2020, was a deadline that we couldn't move around unfortunately and strongly encouraged providers to work with the portal and the 800 number for more information.

#### **COVID Dental Subcommittee**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that at the last Board meeting on Oct 14, 2020, Jose Jimenez proposed developing a COVID Dental Subcommittee. The COVID Dental Subcommittee was created and participants in this committee met via teleconference on December 2, 2021. This committee is scheduled to meet

every other month or as needed during the COVID emergency and the next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021. Dr. Grinter volunteer to be the spokesperson for this committee and here is his update.

Dr. Grinter submitted a report to the committee on issues discussed at the COVID Dental Subcommittee meeting that took place on December 2, 2021. The meeting had a mixture of board members and school providers. Topics covered at the meeting included:

- CARES Act Funding
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Providers Capacity Concerns
- COVID's IMPACT on Dental Providers
- School Providers Benefit Limitations

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that the Provider Network information has been sent out to the committee which includes fee for service and MCO provider information.

Mr. Jose Jimenez asked if a motion needs to be made to post the COVID Dental Subcommittee minutes due to the open meetings act.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any committee members had any comments or opposition to posting the December 2, 2020 COVID Dental Subcommittee minutes. There were no objections so Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated the minutes would be posted.

### **FQHC Rates**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee members that the 2021 FQHC rates have been established and sent out to providers.

### **Board Committee Trainings**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan thanked all committee members that completed the 2020 Ethics Training and 2020 Sexual Harassment. The report has been sent to the governor's office and we are all compliant.

### **IMPACT**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan discussed that dental licenses are expiring September 30, 2021. All providers that update their license with Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), should also go into IMPACT to verify that the correct licensing information has been submitted over. Mr. Ryan Dickerson is here to help us so should be much smoother transition.

## **Announcements**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan introduced Ryan Dickerson as the newest member to BPAS and that he has IMPACT experience.

### **2021 CDT Dental Codes**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee members that the dental fee schedule has been updated and posted on the HFS website. The updates to the fee schedule was the deletion of D7960 which was replaced with D7961 and D7962.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee members that due to budget constraints, the other CDT codes recommended at the last two meetings have been put on hold.

Dr. Jason Grinter stated that due to shut down in the Spring of 2020, he has really tried to pare down staffing and started doing the EOBs that typically staff in the past would have been doing. Which has allowed me a chance to see how the practice is doing and have noticed a pattern with EOBs and DentaQuest Processing Policy 2172 and 2110. Dr. Grinter asked for a discussion on DentaQuest Processing Policy 2172 and 2110.

Dr. Jason Grinter wanted to recommend that emergency exams be paid instead of being automatically denied for certain services, especially right now with the COVID pandemic. We are seeing a lot of patients that are just not doing preventive care. Things are now one year later breaking down. Due to the pandemic patients are coming in and being seen and not just for abscess teeth but for broken fillings that have caused the patient to have started to experience pain.

Dr. Jason Grinter stated that before the pandemic he was just writing off these claims which he doesn't believe that that is the intent of the policy.

Dr. James Thommes asked if the claims were fee for service (FFS) or MCO because there are different edits. DentaQuest on the FFS claims do their best to follow the guidance from HFS and if this is incorrect, we will certainly correct that but if the claims are on the Manage care side this committee isn't the place to discuss the issue.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked Dr. Jason Grinter to send the claim examples so HFS can verify and make sure they're being administered correctly.

Dr. William Simon pointed out that the current dental fee schedule has an imbalance to it and it hasn't been changed in a long time and requested that

HFS and the committee look at the procedure mix and the procedure imbalance of the fee schedule.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee that she received an email from a provider asking about an uncovered code D0251 (Extra oral radiographic image) as that is the recommended way to capture dental radiographs than to perform D0274 (intraoral bitewing radiographic image). D0274 is a covered service. There is literature suggesting that with COVID, usually D0251 are safer to capture than intraoral for both patients and office staff.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if the committee has any thoughts on this?

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if the committee had any other CDT codes they would like to discuss. Nothing was brought up.

### **All Kids School Program Update**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the committee that on January 12, 2020, a provider notice was released lifting the temporary postponement of the All Kids School Dental Program. HFS and DPH agree that it is beneficial to have the All Kids School Dental Program available to school districts, day care centers and Head Start programs that allow dental providers back into their facilities.

All dental providers that were enrolled in the school program in 2019, have automatically been registered for this school year through 7/31/21.

If there are enrolled dental providers that were not enrolled last school year and are needing registered for the remaining school year, please let us know.

### **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – Division of Oral Health (DOH) Updates**

As stated at our last meeting, Mona had a Medicaid data request on children in the school program. Dr. Mona VanKanegan provided the committee with the graph comprised from the data to members. Mona is here to give her findings as well as other DPH Oral Health updates.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan explained the graph to the committee. The data of the graph was pulled by HFS on a monthly basis. In April 2020, when the school program halted. Dentistry also was restricted due to health issues, COVID related. 300,000 three to five year olds and almost 700,000 six to 17 year olds in the Medicaid program. Care that kids were getting in the school setting did not shift over to the community practice, but more than likely those kids did not get any care.

**Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) Update**

Dr. Bill Simon stated there is no update at this time on the outstanding ISDS legislation but will be working to add teledentistry language and updating COVID and Flu vaccine language to the Dental Practice Act for dentists.

**Dental School Update**

Dr. Danny Hanna brought up the issue of prescriptions being written by a person not enrolled in IMPACT, the pharmacy will not get paid for that prescription. Even though there have been two provider notices on this, suspects that it's not generally being enforced. It's unique to dental schools since we don't bill differently all the supervising faculty. We don't bill for their name for students work. Practicing dentists who submits bills would know right away if you were enrolled in IMPACT. Not necessarily in the dental school until your prescription gets rejected. Looking in to some of those issues now.

**V. Open Discussion**

Before opening the floor up to open discussion, Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any of the committee members had anything else to discuss. Nothing else was brought up.

**VI. Adjournment**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2021 at 1 pm.